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to nowhere in particular. A priori reasoning is far too prominent, though one can sympathize with the author in the extreme difficulty of securing reliable data. The conclusions arrived at are more or less unsatisfactory, and some of them comparatively insignificant, as the climax of nearly two hundred octavo pages of discussion.

While the local interest of the book far exceeds its general importance, there is much in it that will be suggestive to the observer of urban life. The historical side of the book is exceedingly well written, and there is a liberal supply of charts. The early part of the volume is devoted to the historical evolution and present economic structure of the South End (Boston) lodging-house section, followed by a description of the lodging-house itself. The position of the lodging-house keeper and the condition of the real-estate market of the district are then dealt with. The second half of the book analyzes the social and economic condition of the lodger, including discussions upon the relation of prostitution and of marriage to lodging-house conditions. A bibliography is appended.

E. R. DEWSNUP

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Messages to Workingmen. By CHARLES STELZLE. New York: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1906. Small 8vo, pp. 120.

What we really have here is a plea for the church as a means of economic and social betterment. Economic and social problems—such as the conflict between capital and labor—are at bottom moral and religious, says Mr. Stelzle. To solve them we must get more brotherly love. But brotherly love is a product of the Christian religion. The Christian church, therefore, is the great instrument of economic reform—the true friend of the workingman and his best hope. Hence “seek ye first the Kingdom of God” *through the church* is Mr. Stelzle’s message to workingmen.

Mr. Stelzle delivers this message in a very pleasing manner. His language is simple; his style spirited. He deals with familiar things in a familiar way. He knows the workingmen, sympathizes with them, believes in their organizations, wants sincerely to help them; and he has a deal of common-sense which crops out frequently and gives an air of reality and sanity to his work.

The fatal error of the book is just in this *air* of reality and sanity. It imparts this air to a statement and solution of the problem alto-

gether too simple. Mr. Stelzle apparently has not been sufficiently struck with the significance of the fact that workingmen and employers are the products of heredity and environment. He apparently does not understand that the market and the workshop are also pulpits from which for generations sermons have been preached from very diverse texts six days in the week, and nine to twelve hours of the day. Because he does not realize this fact and its significance his *Messages to Workingmen* is a book likely to foster false hopes on the part of earnest philanthropic workers, and to comfort some others who are already too willing to cast responsibility upon Providence.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

R. F. HOXIE

A History of the Northern Securities Case. By BALTHASAR HENRY MEYER. Madison: The University of Wisconsin, 1906. 8vo, pp. 131.

Professor Meyer has added to the voluminous literature on this important case a careful and scholarly treatment from the economic view-point. The first chapters of his bulletin were written two years ago, but publication was delayed until the final decision was rendered by the Supreme Court.

The work begins with a carefully prepared list of references, then gives a history of the case showing the genesis of the idea of a holding company, the immediate causes of organization, and the form of organization. The action of the state and federal authorities, and the different court decisions, are briefly and clearly analyzed. Half a dozen documents that have an important bearing on the case are printed in an appendix.

The economic principles involved are summarized, in the conclusions in chapter 10. The principal points there made are in no danger of being too strongly emphasized. They are: (1) that competition as a force to protect the public interest is out of the question; (2) that open concerted action of the railways, under public control, must supersede the tacit and illegal agreements which long experience shows cannot be prevented. The author says (p. 308):

Opposition to the Securities Company rested chiefly upon the same ground that opposition to agreements among railway companies, pools, and all co-operative movements among carriers has generally rested. This